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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY China

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SUBJECT Conditions in Shanghai and Other Areas of Communist China

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Government Policy

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1. [] the Chinese Communist government did not want to start or fight in another war. The five-year plan was considered more important than a move against Taiwan or Hong Kong, or even large-scale aid to the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

2. Soviet advisers were being used by the Chinese Communists in industry and in military affairs, but they did not have any appreciable effect on Chinese domestic policy and little effect on its foreign policy.

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3. [] there was no campaign comparable to the three-anti's movement of early 1952 in China. It was not against the law to listen to the Voice of America in Shanghai; the audience was small, however, mostly because few people had radios good enough to receive the broadcasts. []

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Some Shanghai residents believed the broadcasts fully; most, however, found the broadcasts poorly organized and presented.

4. The Chinese Communist government had made certain mistakes. The new marriage law had not been well received, especially by the conservative people in the small villages, and the Communists had shelved it for the time being. There was also much bureaucracy and red tape, and the Communists realized that this was hurting them.

5. Elections in China were controlled, not by forcing people to vote in a certain way, but in the stage of the nominations by seeing that only Party members were nominated.

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Government Reorganization

- 25X1 6. The Information Administration of the central government was never actually abolished in August 1952, but it did undergo an extensive reorganization.
7. The Shanghai Municipal Government as a civilian organization has functioned since 1952, when CH'EN I was re-elected mayor. Shanghai was definitely moving away from military control. There was no curfew. As a special municipality, Shanghai was directly responsible to the central government, just as Canton.

Construction and Jute Cultivation

- 25X1 8. The most impressive thing about China was the amount of building construction going on. A great number of brick works had been established, and many factories and laborers' houses were being constructed. Along the railroad from Shanghai to Canton there was also a distinct increase in the growing of jute. Almost every farmer had a small patch of jute.

Care for Returning Overseas Chinese

9. T'AN Kah-kee (CH'EN Chia-keng, 7115/0857/1649) in July was still one of the most important members of the Commission for Overseas Chinese Affairs of the government. The government was making special efforts to take care of overseas Chinese; they had set up special schools to look after overseas children, and made special efforts to provide housing and employment for returnees. Middle schools in China were woefully deficient in room for students. While the average Chinese was not able to get his boy into middle school, those coming from overseas were not only given priority but always got a place. Other schools in China seemed to have adequate room to take care of all students.

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